IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A suede artificial leather comprising a three-dimensional entangled body comprising a superfine fiber having a fineness of 0.2 dtex or less and an elastomeric polymer A impregnated in the three-dimensional entangled body, the suede artificial leather satisfying the following requirements (1) to (4):

(1) a pigment A in an amount of 0.1 to 8% by mass is embedded in the superfine fiber, wherein the pigment A is at least one pigment selected from the group consisting of an organic pigment having an average particle size of 0.01 to 0.3 μm and carbon black having an average particle size of 0.01 to 0.3 μm;

(2) a pigment B in an amount of 1 to 20% by mass is embedded in the elastomeric polymer A, wherein the pigment B is at least one pigment selected from the group consisting of an organic pigment having an average particle size of 0.05 to 0.6 μm and carbon black having an average particle size of 0.05 to 0.6 μm, or the pigment B is a pigment particle having an average particle size of 0.05 to 0.6 μm which comprises a mixture of an organic pigment with carbon black or at least one inorganic pigment,

wherein the elastomeric polymer A is selected from the group consisting of a polyurethane and an acryl-polyurethane composite elastomeric polymer, which is ~~in a form of~~ a transparent ~~film which is formed using a water-dispersed polyurethane substantially free from organic solvents, the polyurethane having~~ when made into a cast film and has a hot water swelling rate of 20% or less when measured immediately after immersion to a hot water of 130°C;

wherein the acryl-polyurethane composite elastomeric polymer is obtained by an emulsion polymerization of an ethylenically unsaturated monomer comprising a (meth)acrylic acid derivative and in the presence of an aqueous dispersion of a urethane resin;

wherein the polyurethane is obtained from the reaction of a diisocyanate component, a polymeric polyol component, a chain extender and a carboxyl group-containing diol and crosslinked with a crosslinking agent ~~as the sole components~~,

wherein the diisocyanate component is an aliphatic diisocyanate or alicyclic diisocyanate and containing less than 10% by mass of an aromatic diisocyanate, wherein the aliphatic diisocyanate or alicyclic diisocyanate is selected from the group consisting of hexamethylene diisocyanate, isophorone diisocyanate, norbornene diisocyanate and 4,4'-dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate;

wherein the polymeric polyol component of the polyurethane is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, polytetramethylene glycol, poly(methyltetramethylene glycol), polybutylene adipate diol, polybutylene sebacate diol, polyhexamethylene adipate diol, poly(3-methyl-1,5-pentylene adipate) diol, poly(3-methyl-1,5-pentylene sebacate) diol, polycaprolactone diol, polyhexamethylene carbonate diol, and poly(3-methyl-1,5-pentylene carbonate) diol;

wherein the chain extender is selected from the group consisting of hydrazine, ~~ethylendiamine~~ ethylenediamine, propylenediamine, hexamethylenediamine, nonamethylenediamine, xylylenediamine, isophoronediamine, piperazine, adipoyldihydrazide, isophthaloyldihydazide, diethylenetriamine, ~~triethylenetramine~~ triethylenetrimine, ethylene ~~gglycol~~ glycol, propylene glycol. ~~1.4-butanediol~~ 1,4-butanediol, ~~1.l6-hexanedio~~ 1,6-hexanediol, ~~1.4-bia(β-hydroxyethoxy)benzene~~ 1,4-bis(β-hydroxyethoxy)benzene, ~~1.4cyclohexanediol~~ 1,4-cyclohexanediol, ~~trimethylopropane~~ trimethylolpropane, pentaerythritol, ~~amincethyl~~ aminoethyl alcohol and ~~amiinopropyl~~ aminopropyl alcohol;

wherein the crosslinking agent reacts with the carboxyl group of the polyurethane and has oxazoline group, carbodiimide group, epoxy group, cyclocarbonate group, ~~azirdine~~

aziridine group or hydrazide group; ~~and selecteed from the group consisting of methyl (meth)acrylate, ethyl (meth)acrylate, di(meth)acrylate, 1.9-nonanediol di(meth)acrylate, neopentyl glycol di(meth)acrylate, divinylbenzene and ally (meth)acrylate;~~

(3) the ratio of the elastomeric polymer A to the three-dimensional entangled body is 15:85 to 60:40 by mass; and

(4) an average raised nap length of the superfine fiber present on the surface of the suede artificial leather is 10 to 200 μm.

Claim 2 (Original): The suede artificial leather according to Claim 1, wherein the pigment A is at least one pigment selected from the group consisting of condensed polycyclic organic pigments, insoluble azo pigments and carbon black.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Original): The suede artificial leather according to Claim 1, wherein the pigment B contains at least one pigment selected from the group consisting of condensed polycyclic organic pigments and insoluble azo pigments.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Original): The suede artificial leather according Claim 1, wherein the elastomeric polymer A has a color fastness to light of third rating or higher when measured by an evaluation method of color fastness to xenon arc lamp light under conditions of a black panel temperature of 83°C and an accumulated irradiated illuminance of 20 MJ.

Claim 7 (Original): The suede artificial leather according to Claim 1, wherein the elastomeric polymer A is derived from a water-dispersed elastomeric polymer having an average particle size of 0.1 to 0.7 μm.

Claim 8 (Original): The suede artificial leather according to Claim 1, wherein a surface of the suede artificial leather has a color fastness to light of fourth rating or higher when measured by an evaluation method of color fastness to xenon arc lamp light under conditions of a black panel temperature of 83°C and an accumulated irradiated illuminance of 20 MJ.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The suede artificial leather according to Claim 1, wherein a layer comprising an elastomeric polymer B containing 0.5 to 25% by mass of a pigment C is continuously or discontinuously disposed on a surface of the suede artificial leather around feet of nap-raised fibers.

Claim 10 (Original): The suede artificial leather according to Claim 1, wherein a knitted fabric or a woven fabric is laminated in an inside or on a back surface of the three-dimensional entangled body.

Claim 11 (Original): A semi-grained artificial leather comprising a nap-raised superfine fiber with a mingling grained portion comprising an elastomeric polymer C, which is produced by partially covering at least one surface of the suede artificial leather as defined in Claim 1 with an elastomeric polymer C.

Claim 12 (Original): A grained artificial leather produced by covering at least one surface of the suede artificial leather as defined in Claim 1 with an elastomeric polymer C.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): A method for producing a suede artificial leather comprising a three-dimensional entangled body comprising a superfine fiber having a fineness of 0.2 dtex or less and an elastomeric polymer, which comprises:

a step (I) for producing a fiber-entangled nonwoven fabric comprising a superfine fiber-forming fiber which comprises a thermoplastic component slightly soluble in water for forming the superfine fiber and a water-soluble thermoplastic polyvinyl alcohol copolymer component, the thermoplastic component slightly soluble in water containing at least one pigment A selected from the group consisting of an organic pigment having an average particle size of 0.01 to 0.3 μm and carbon black having an average particle size of 0.01 to 0.3 μm in an amount of 0 to 8% by mass;

a step (II) for impregnating the fiber-entangled nonwoven fabric with an aqueous dispersion containing a water-dispersed elastomeric polymer and a water-dispersed pigment B in an amount of 1 to 20% by mass of the water-dispersed elastomeric polymer such that a ratio of the elastomeric polymer derived from the water-dispersed elastomeric polymer to the three-dimensional entangled body is 15:85 to 60:40, the water-dispersed pigment B being at least one water-dispersed pigment selected from the group consisting of an water-dispersed organic pigment having an average particle size of 0.05 to 0.6 μm and water-dispersed carbon black having an average particle size of 0.05 to 0.6 μm, or a water-dispersed pigment particle having an average particle size of 0.05 to 0.6 μm containing an organic pigment; and

a step (III) for removing the water-soluble thermoplastic polyvinyl alcohol copolymer component by extraction with an aqueous solution, thereby fibrillating the superfine fiber-forming fiber into the superfine fiber having a fineness of 0.2 dtex or less.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 13, wherein the water-soluble thermoplastic polyvinyl alcohol copolymer is a modified polyvinyl alcohol having at least one unit selected from the group consisting of olefin units having four or less carbon atom and vinyl ether units in an amount of 1 to 20 mol%.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 13, further comprising a step for dyeing.

Claim 16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The suede artificial leather according to Claim 1, wherein the pigment A is present in an amount of 0.1 to 2% by mass.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The suede artificial leather according to Claim 1, wherein the pigment A is present in an amount of 1 to 5% by mass.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The suede artificial leather according to Claim 1, wherein the pigment A is present in an amount of 0.2 to 5% by mass.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The suede artificial leather according to Claim 1, wherein the pigment A is present in an amount of 0.5 to 4% by mass.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The suede artificial leather according to Claim 1, wherein the elastomeric polymer A impregnates the three-dimensional entangled body uniformly.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The suede artificial leather according to Claim 1, wherein the elastomeric polymer A impregnates the three-dimensional entangled body with a gradient in the thickness direction.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The suede artificial leather according to Claim 1, wherein the pigment B is (1) at least one organic pigment selected from the group consisting of a condensed polycyclic organic pigment and an insoluble azo pigment; (2) a mixture of said at least one organic pigment and carbon black; or (3) a mixture of said at least one organic pigment and at least one inorganic pigment selected from the group consisting of titanium oxide, red iron oxide, chromium red, molybdenum red, litharge, ultramarine and iron oxide.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The suede artificial leather according Claim 1, wherein the diisocyanate component contains no aromatic diisocyanate.